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—BY THE—  
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## TWELVE PAGES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1899.

### THE WATER CONTRACT.

Just a word more about that water contract. It is with a feeling of most sincere regret that it now appears as a fact that the Water Board has seriously recommended to the Councils that the Councils shall:

- 1st. Buy water from a private corporation.
- 2d. Pay 15 cents per 1,000 gallons for it.

As to the first proposition, it strikes us with such astounding surprise that we are entirely at a loss to express it. Only a few months ago, upon the recommendation of the Water Board the city burdened the tax-payers with nearly a quarter of a million dollars more indebtedness for an increased water supply. We had been worrying along mightily well with what we had, but when \$250,000 was appropriated, the glad tidings came that water enough to supply 250,000 people would be furnished. What we would like to know is, where is it, if the city cannot supply the park? This is too important to let pass, and should be taken up by the Councils with that seriousness it deserves. If the city has not the water after expending a quarter of a million of dollars, the citizens of Norfolk would like to know the reason why.

Now, as to the second proposition, (which is a more serious matter than the first):  
Mr. Herbert L. Smith, Superintendent of the Water Department, recommends that the city shall pay 15 cents per thousand gallons for water because it is cheaper than the city can furnish it.

Are we to understand that a private concern can furnish water, pump it out of drive wells for a less expense than the city with its costly plant, and \$250,000.00 extra, can pump it out of lakes? In fact, is the impression wished to be made that the city can't produce water at 15 cents per 1,000 gallons; for surely the Superintendent would not have recommended the city to pay that sum if such were not the case!

Then we have to advise frankly that there should be some material changes in the manner of operating the waterworks. Water can certainly be pumped into the city for a less price than 15c per thousand gallons, unless the authorities consulted are much at fault.

But be that as it may, it is a sad plight, if a private concern, after paying for its land, its wells and its machinery, after paying licenses and taxes; after paying interest on its bonded debt, and a dividend to its stockholders, can pump water cheaper than the city waterworks with nothing to pay, and a big subsidy from the city besides.

Surely there is something about the difficulties that the city has to encounter, about which we have not yet been advised, and in the meantime an interested lot of citizens and taxpayers await the information.

### THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.

Evil communications corrupt good morals, and we need not expect exemplary Democrats in gentlemen who closely associate in politics with Republicans. They soon adopt and practice Republican methods, and gradually they imitate Republican doctrines—as the connection between clear and muddy pools makes both

muddy; the result never being that the muddy pools are made clear. Hence, students of our local politics are accounting for many things that have developed of recent years in the Democratic managers of Norfolk politics, in city and county. There is too much intimacy and co-operation between the Democratic and Republican bosses. They are said to suck, in many cases, through the same quill, and sometimes pig together in the same bed. It is inferred that from this evil association we have among us that strange hybrid—Democrats with Republican principles—Jacobs, with the hairy skin of Esau—and some of those strange fish, called 'merman', that are more fishy than those that dwell in the sea.

They are for military conquest and subjugation; they are for expansion by forcible annexation, though liberty perish; they are for militarism, imperialism, large Federal Standing Armies, and the desuetude of the State Militia; they are for government going out of the banking business, and for the banks assuming governmental prerogatives; they are for the single gold standard, against the constitutional legal-tender of gold and silver coin; and having forgotten the Revolutionary war and all its principles, they are zealous, though cautious, advocates of surrendering our independence to an entangling alliance with England, against the paternal advice of George Washington and all our early patriots and heroes, who were also statesmen, as contra-distinguished from the modern trading politician, wholesale and retail, or on commission.

Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan concur in warning us against banks, their influence and machinations. It is said that the independence and integrity of our national government are now menaced from this source; and there are many reasons to think so; yet, whether that be an imminent peril, or not, no citizen of Norfolk who has had to do with her public and official affairs but has seen and felt the power that absolutely dominates this town like the Old Man of the Sea, on the shoulders of Shubad the Sailor—a monster of whom veracious history relates that "he never left any he had once mastered till their strength was exhausted, when he failed not to destroy them."

The people of Norfolk, in spite of this Old Man of the Sea, have rights and interests that they cannot afford to leave to his direction. It is at once laughable and dreadful to see Norfolk going about in this plight, with the little old man perched on her broad shoulders: dictating her officers, of city and party, master of all she is and does, with no little coarseness control in Norfolk County, with the adjacent regions. Why not, fellow-citizens, take this opportunity to throw off this Little Old Man and his thralls? It is high time for Norfolk to have a new man and a greater, who will serve her instead of himself, and the corporations he represents.

### WHY SUBMIT LONGER?

Norfolk City, Portsmouth and all the adjacent towns, with Norfolk county and Princess Anne, have long submitted to an oligarchy that is neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring—neither Democratic, nor Republican—but an association formed and operated "strictly for business" by a union of Republicans and alleged Democrats, the latter having no more real Democracy than old Hanna, of Ohio; or old Quay, of Pennsylvania; or old Adkins, of Delaware;—neither of whom, for that matter, has any of Republicanism, except its lust for office and loot. Repeatedly have the true Democrats sought to get rid of this incubus and enjoy their rights and liberties as free Virginians and citizens of the United States; but just as repeatedly have the oligarchy, with its ramified powers and influences, caught the public ear with its calumnies upon good citizens who dared complain, denouncing upon them its own sins, and prating of the danger of negro and Republican domination; as if they who are in collusion with the Republican and negro leaders of all this section are the only safe custodians of the white man's interests and supremacy.

We have heard enough of this from that interested source. The cry of "Wolf!" has sounded too often. We have paid rather too dear for the protection of these watch-dogs, whose tender care of us and our interests have been worse than the ferocity of wolves. Let us put our affairs in the hands of agents who will work for us, and not for their corporations, and other clients—our enemies.

As was said before, "saucy for the goose is sauce for the gander." If Tyler wasn't entitled to a primary, are you? and if so, why? Please!

This is called the Age of Doubt; but why, when the incredible and impossible are always happening?

There is going to be a crop of enthusiastic office-holding primary seekers in day or two.

In the meantime, the Boers are still plugging away, and so are the Filipinos.

The Executive Committee will kindly slide out from over the party. No one can possibly mistake the two.

Why not come out like men and stand on the platform you made—opposed to primaries!

### MCKINLEY'S WICKED PARTNER.

It is folly for any Republicans to affect surprise at the intimate personal, official and political association of McKinley and Hanna, as if McKinley were so superior to Hanna in morals, or ability, as to make their co-partnership incongruous. There have been coalitions before this of Bluff with Black George, the Puritan with the blackleg; but in no instance was there just cause for astonishment, from either a moral or intellectual standpoint—the men being half fellows, well met; or, if either was superior to the other, it was Black George, the blackleg. Mr. McKinley is a political parson and all that that implies; and when we see him yoked with so disreputable a boss and political worker as Hanna, let us not pity him for his "wicked partner," but rather pity Hanna for being unequally yoked with so cunning a sharper as McKinley, who, as a political parson, would be sure to make him the 'scapegoat of their co-operation.

The Columbus (Ohio) correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, writing on the eve of the election, is one of those Republicans who pretend that McKinley was unfortunate in locking arms with Hanna, when, in fact, Hanna has made him President, and is expected to do it again next year. But here is something of what this correspondent says of the union of the two:

"There is no disguising the truth about Senator Hanna. Notwithstanding his acknowledged ability as an organizer, to Republicans the development of the campaign have been a humiliating lesson in respect of their leader. That the party's chief figure—only so, however, by the President's edict—has been a dead weight to the ticket from the outset is undisputed. The dislike of Hanna in his own town, and throughout the State for that matter, is simply marvellous. It is more than quiescent dislike; it is active, burning hatred that is absolutely appalling. There is no accounting for it by ordinary reasoning; the hostiles cannot well explain it themselves. It appears to be instinctive. This antagonism, dating from Senator Hanna's sudden rise to power, though he was far from popular as a Cleveland business man, is deeper than mere jealousy of his mastery of the Republican party. It springs from what is now the popular conception of his personality. The prevalent idea is that this Hanna personality is far from winning; it proves too often actually repellent. He is sadly devoid of tact in dealing with men. Intolerant of opposition or manly independence of opinion, he considers nobody, conciliates nobody. He does not lead; he orders, he drives. Like the bull in the lane, he passes no one and will permit no one to pass him. His methods are those of the unscrupulous ward boss, not those of a National leader. Such methods may pull a party through one campaign successfully, but they do not conduce to long tenure, either of the boss or his party."

It is a matter of some astonishment to many people in Ohio that the President has so long tolerated this political partnership. The relations between them are an anomaly. They are ruinous to the party and threaten the President's ascendancy. The President's most marked characteristics are courtesy to his political associates, tact and caution. He never permits the mailed hand to appear. He is receptive and conciliatory, and as an individual extremely lovable. He is a politician through and through. His eminent success is mainly owing to his skill in dealing with men. He has the attributes of a gentleman, and as a judicious party leader has in the past inspired confidence and commanded popular support. Mr. Hanna does neither. Where McKinley would persuade or flatter with promises, Hanna would threaten or coerce; where the one, even holding the advantage, would from policy temporize, the other would force an issue. Instead of taking advantage of his high place to consolidate the Republican power, to conciliate and with hooks of steel draw the Republican masses to his own support as well as that of the architect of his greatness, Senator Hanna has too often exhibited a contempt for the political utilities and a disregard of Republican opinion.

Thus, anticipating defeat in Ohio, Hanna was made the 'scapegoat'; but it is nonsense to exalt McKinley, the friend and defender of Alger, at the expense of Hanna. The President has an obvious liking for such fellows, a fellow feeling and a community of nature that make them, as it were, pigs of the same litter.

The same correspondent further says (still sacrificing Hanna, the creator, to his creature, McKinley):

"Whether this popular conception of Mr. Hanna is correct or not, it is certain that somehow he has alienated an influential Republican element, the support of which both he and the President now very much need. Worse still, it has at last fiercely turned upon him, and in the desire to 'down' Hanna it may imperil the whole party. Without a doubt he is the most unpopular Republican in Ohio to-day. Bushnell or Kurtz would defeat him at the polls for any elective office in the gift of the people. It would have been far, far better for Nash if Mr. Hanna's health had deferred his return from abroad until after election. Had he known three months ago as much as he knows now, it is safe to say that he would have continued 'taking the water' in Europe until the meeting of Congress in December."

"The only menace to Republican success on Tuesday is Mr. Hanna. Nobody is more clearly aware of this than Mr. Hanna himself. As predicted in these dispatches, it has been a fight on Mr. Hanna from start to finish. His iteration and reiteration of the aphorisms, 'This is the skirmish fight of 1900,' 'The next Presidency hangs upon the result,' 'Stand by President McKinley,' etc., are proof that Senator Hanna wisely desired to shift the issue, and shield himself behind the more popular President. If the contest of 1900 were out of the way Nash would be snowed under on Tuesday by fifty thousand plurality. Hanna well knows that the party welfare of large importance in the minds of all disappointed from Hanna, the appeal in behalf of National Republic-

can interests at this time would be the death knell of all McKean's hopes and render futile all his cunning plans. It will probably save Nash in the end anyhow."

Hanna can see in this what he may expect in 1900 in the larger election of President. All fears, all doubts, all mistakes, short-comings and disasters are to be packed on his shoulders. He has here a foretaste of the bitter draught he will have to swallow if the people prefer Bryan to McKinley. Upon him will burst the obnoxious storm of fury, if McKinley be defeated because of the most shameful administration known in the history of the United States, and his flagrant departure from all American traditions, principles and policies inherited from the founders of the Republic.

Everyone can now see by how frail a tenure Republicans hold control of this government, and a firm union of all anti-McKinleyites and the foes of McKinleyisms will next year be sure to restore Americanism and Democracy.

A Maryland writer has published a little book attacking Shakespeare's legal acquirements. As it was agreed among his contemporaries who knew him personally that he had little of what are called education and learning—having "little Latin and less Greek"—and never pretended to be a lawyer, Mr. Devecman (the writer referred) has achieved a great success, as he could equally have done had he sought to show that the Bard of Avon was not a physician, nor an architect, nor even a jackleg carpenter. The fact is that the wisest and greatest of poets and dramatists, had little technical knowledge of any science, art, profession, or vocation, though he employed them all and their terms to illustrate his magnificent creations,—at will, however, making everything undergo

"A sea change  
Into something rich and strange."

The chief value of Mr. Devecman's little book is its complete refutation of the claims, so absurdly set up by some persons, that Lord Bacon was the author of the plays known as Shakespeare's. Francis Bacon was a scholar, a scientific philosopher, and able jurist. William Shakespeare, as his works reveal, was neither,—"wild above rule or art," yet profoundly versed with men and the human heart.

At a Chatauqua Circle, Newburg, N. Y., a Methodist preacher, named Wixon, advocated the killing of criminals, to save expenses and to exterminate the breed. Perhaps it did not occur to the reverend gentleman that his proposition means the wiping out of the human race, including himself as a very vicious and homicidal person. He gravely advocated that every criminal offender should be chloroformed to death after two crimes of any gravity. We suspect that in his daily life this ferocious gentleman is a very mild and benevolent citizen, who wouldn't kill a mouse.

The man who is (or, pretends to be) a Democrat in State and local affairs, but a Republican in national and international, or foreign affairs, is like the worthy who runs a Sunday School and a Missionary Society on the Sabbath, and on the rest of the week keeps a gambling den and a barroom.

New Jersey, the den from which issue letters of wildcat trusts and corporations, with "yaller dog" resident trustees and directors, has given Sampson a sword as "the Hero of Santiago Bay." How fit!

It is used to be said that the Union could not remain half free and half slave; nor can this government remain half self-governing and half subject.

Come to think of it—are the people getting very much 'deaf' to your heart now than they CAN vote, than they were when the Committee would not let them.

Now, if you bolted the Presidential ticket, will you be good enough to satisfy the wild cravings of a hungry mind that wants to know why one can't bolt you?

A newspaper that tells the people what is going on, and has the courage of its convictions, is a nuisance—to politicians.

Hanna has become a "spell-binder" in Ohio. No wonder we are having a renaissance of oratory and eloquence at so much a head!

Crownshield must have struck a rubber ball from the way he rebounded after his attack on Admiral Dewey.

The Navy Department has even belittled Dewey in order to praise Sampson.

If there is no conspiracy in the navy, why is it every mother's son of them belittles Schley and praise Sampson?

The navy is as bad as politics. The Administrators sneeze, and the whole gang follows suit!

### NOTES AND OPINIONS.

(Louisville Post.)

In future Dewey's before breakfast maneuvers will be confined to getting up in the cold and starting the kitchen fire.

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